

AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED OCTOBER 6TH, 1848,

AT THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

OF THE

Queens County Agricultural Society,

AT JAMAICA, LONG ISLAND.

BY JOHN A. KING,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

JAMAICA,

PRINTED BY CHARLES S. WATROUS,
1849.

JAMAICA, October 6th, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR—At a meeting of the Managers of the QUEENS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, held this day, after the delivery of your Address, a resolution was adopted tendering the thanks of the Society to you for the able Address which you had just pronounced, and requesting you to furnish a copy for publication.

I have great pleasure in communicating this request to you, and trust you will comply with it at your earliest convenience.

With much respect, I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALBERT G. CARLL, *Secretary, etc.*

TO HON. JOHN A. KING,

President of Queens County Agricultural Society.

JAMAICA, L. I., Oct. 12th, 1848.

ALBERT G. CARLL, Esq., *Secretary of the Queens Co. Agricultural Society.*

DEAR SIR—I beg leave to express my thanks to the Managers of the QUEENS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, for the honor they have done me in requesting a copy of my Address for publication. And, in compliance with the Resolution, communicated in your letter of the 6th inst., I shall have great pleasure in furnishing a copy for that purpose.

With much respect,

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. KING.

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE QUEENS CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY :

I PROPOSE, in the remarks I am about to make, to depart somewhat from the course which has been usually adopted by those who have addressed this Society; and instead of treating of the subject of agriculture generally, I propose to confine what I have to say, principally, to the County of Queens, the middle County of the Island upon which we live; and by the cultivation of whose soil, we acquire a share of that health, independence and happiness which is eminently the lot of its inhabitants. Before however I enter upon the character of its soil, the course of tillage, and the application of manures to its varied crops, I would for a moment digress, and give a brief account of the position, settlement and climate of Queens County, stating at the same time, that most of the information and facts relating to these questions, are derived from the several histories of Long Island, and from the recent Geological Survey of the same, under the authority of the State, by Wm. W. Mather. Long Island then, by its position, its climate, the character of its soil, and the thrift and industry of its inhabitants, is a remarkable portion of the State of New York. It lies on its southern extremity, between the 40th and 41st degrees of

North Latitude, and forms, with the Island of Manhattan Staten Island and the Jersey Shore, the noble Harbor of New York. It is in length, from Fort Hamilton, at the Narrows, to Montauk Point, about one hundred and forty miles; and from the Narrows to Peconic Bay, a distance of ninety miles, it varies in breadth from twelve to twenty miles. The first successful attempt by the English to settle Queens County, was made in the Town of Hempstead, in 1643, by emigrants from New England, at whose head was the Rev. Richard Denton. Flushing was settled in 1645, under Thomas Farrington and others. Newtown by Englishmen, in 1651, where the present village stands; and the first patent or ground brief, was granted in 1652, by Governor Stuyvesant. Thomas Stephenson and his associates were among its first settlers. The first plantation in Oysterbay, was commenced on the site of the present village of that name in 1653, by Englishmen, and the first deed from the Indians for land in that town, was made in 1653 to Peter Wright and others. Jamaica followed in 1656, upon the application of Robert Jackson and others from Hempstead. Robert Coe and his associates signed the first certificate of purchase Nov. 25th, 1656, for the settlement near the Beaver Pond, under a purchase from the Indians and a grant from the Governor and Council of 21st March, 1656. North Hempstead was originally a part of Hempstead, and has no distinct records earlier than the year 1784. A settlement was attempted, at what is now Manhasset, in 1640, by a company of emigrants from Lynn in Massachusetts, but was broken up by the Dutch

Governor Kieft. It will be perceived from the above statement, that the County of Queens is among the earliest settlements in the State of New York. Its length from East to West is 26 miles, its breadth from North to South about 16 miles, making its whole area or surface 396 square miles, or 250,000 acres.

The influence of the Ocean, which bounds it on the South and the East, mitigates and tempers, both in winter and summer, the cold and the heat; so that the thermometer rarely falls below zero, or rises above 90. Of the 250,000 acres, the area of its surface, about 25,000 are salt meadow, and 25,000 plain and common lands, leaving 200,000 acres of land for cultivation, improvement or in wood. Its present population may be estimated at 32,000; and the assessment roll of its real and personal property reaches nearly \$12,000,000. Considering, then, the agricultural character of its inhabitants, their numbers, the size of the County—one of the smallest in the State—yet, the value of its land, and prosperity of its farmers, place it, in point of taxable property, the sixth or seventh in the State. Large as is this amount of property, in a county of such limited extent, and whose population is almost exclusively agricultural; yet I think it can be clearly shown that a full remuneration for the capital and labor expended in the cultivation of its soil, is annually received, and in many instances profitably invested—and that this steady return and increase, is as much due to the thrift and industry of those who till the soil, as to the character of that soil, and the variety of its products. A ridge or chain of hills

commencing in Kings County, and extending nearly to Oyster Pond Point, on the northern fork of the Island, and rising in one or two places to nearly 400 feet in height, divides the County into nearly equal parts. On the north side of this ridge the land is often rough and broken, except where it stretches in necks and headlands into the Sound—while the surface on the south side, is nearly a plain, without rock or stone of any size. The soil of the Island, and of this County, has as much variety as its surface. Near the Sound the land is hilly and uneven—the greater portion however, is either level or slightly undulating. The necks and headlands have generally a rolling surface, and a deep loamy soil slightly mixed with sand. On the south side of the hills, the surface is flat and the soil sandy, mingled in many places with loam and clay. The more elevated land is, in soil, superior to that of the plains, and better adapted to the growth of the grains usually raised in this climate. There are large tracts of land and woodland in the centre of the Island, which, until recently, have remained without any attempt to reduce them to cultivation. In this County we have a large body of land, principally belonging to the Town of Hempstead, which still lies in common, but is susceptible of being easily and profitably tilled; notwithstanding an immediate and considerable outlay is required, for fences and manures. Kings County contains very little waste land, and is, in the aggregate, more fertile than any equal portion of the Island. Perhaps this is in a great degree to be accounted for, as much from the excellence of its soil, as from its proximity to the cities of Brooklyn and

New York, from whence manures of various kinds may be more cheaply and easily procured.

With these preliminary remarks respecting the general features of the Island and the County of Queens, which I trust may not be deemed inappropriate to the subject in hand, I will proceed to describe in the best way that I can, the system of husbandry which is pursued in this County. It must be in the recollection of many, who are here present to-day, that the general course of cultivation was formerly, in many essential particulars, different from its present practice. Before the Erie Canal was completed, wheat, and barley, and rye, were largely raised for sale, and the flouring mills on the Island had as much business as they could attend to; the quality of the grain raised was excellent, and the reputation of the mills on the North shore was well established for the quality of their flour. The construction of that great work of internal improvement, very soon caused a radical change in the husbandry and crops of the County. We could no longer compete with the rich and virgin lands of the west, in the production of the cereal grains; and it was at one moment feared that the value of our lands, and the prosperity of our farmers, would be seriously affected by the cheapness, fertility and great extent of the western lands. Such, however, was not the case. The effect of opening the Erie Canal was, it is true, to bring the crops of the West into immediate competition with those of the older parts of the State, which, so far, had enjoyed a monopoly; and at the same time, to force those sections, particularly those near to the city of New York—

for as yet, Brooklyn was only a village—to change their system of husbandry, and the course and character of their crops. And the farmers of the western part of Long Island, with that unerring sagacity which interest always prompts, quickly adapted the cultivation, and the crops, to the new and more extended demand which the increasing and varied wants of a great and rapidly growing city could not fail to produce. The natural and predicted consequence of the opening of the Erie Canal, was first, to enlarge and enrich the city of New York, by pouring into her warehouses, for consumption and export, the immense and increasing harvests of the unlimited West; still to be multiplied, as they have been, year by year, until by new and improved channels of communication, the borders of all the Great Lakes, now receive and distribute the overflowing productions of regions as vast, and as fertile, as the sun in his daily course blesses with his glorious beams. The greater part of this annual tribute of agricultural wealth finds its way to the noble seaport of our State—the great commercial mart of the Western Continent; thence to be distributed among those Atlantic States whose productions are of a different character—and also, among the countries of the world, in exchange for their productions and the fabrics of their skill. The result and effect of these new and varied elements of wealth poured into the city of New York, was immediately felt, in the extension of her commerce, the increase of her population, and in the enlargement and improvement of the city itself. This impulse, so powerfully felt by the city, was soon communicated to the surrounding

country; and as the number and means of the citizens increased, the demand for those productions which the farmers in its neighborhood could alone most easily and profitably supply, was soon greatly augmented. Hence, as the growth of New York, and subsequently of Brooklyn, continued to increase from the causes above alluded to, it followed as a consequence of so many being devoted exclusively to commerce and the trades connected with it—and all consumers of what another class could alone produce—that the lands in the immediate vicinity of these cities must advance in value—first for the erection of houses and buildings, and next for the cultivation and supply of those articles most needed from day to day for the consumption and support of two large cities. And such must continue to be the course of improvement, and the increasing value of the lands in the western part of this Island, as the cities of New York and Brooklyn shall continue to prosper and augment. The system of husbandry in this part of the Island, and reaching to the eastern towns of Queens County, has, as was before stated, and as a natural consequence of our position and soil, undergone a great change in the character and value of its productions. Formerly wheat, rye, oats and corn, were the staple crops, and to a certain extent, some of them still continue of that character. Now, it may be said that wheat, and rye, and barley, are no longer raised as staple crops, nor to the extent of former years. But corn, and oats, and hay, are now the main, and, as farming crops, perhaps the most productive, and the most relied on. Potatoes, cabbage, peas, beans, aspar-

agus, tomatoes, and other vegetables, in those parts of the county most conveniently situated for that purpose, have been largely cultivated for market, and two crops are now not unfrequently taken during the same season, from the same piece of ground; thus bringing a double return to the farmer for his labor and expense. On the south side of the Island where the soil is light, sandy and warm, all the early vegetables and small fruit have, with the aid of ashes and manure, been grown with great success and advantage. And there, too, within a few years, large orchards of peach trees have been planted, whose fruit has been abundant, fair, and finding a ready market; while the stronger and more loamy lands in the centre, and on the necks and headlands of the north side, have, by a similar process of high cultivation, been rendered productive of the finest crops of corn, oats, and hay—and where lands are finally laid down to grass, of excellent crops of wheat, rye and barley. But it should always be remembered, that, while on the one hand, the nearness of a great and steady market has afforded the inducement, and stimulated the exertions of the farmers of the western part of the Island, yet on the other hand, they, with great sagacity and persevering industry, have been quite equal to the new system of husbandry, which in so many instances they have been called upon to enter into. And that though prudent and saving in all other matters, they have learned the wise lesson, that it is not for their interest to starve the land. It has been truly said, you cannot cheat the land, for it will reproach you if you do. Another maxim, which I believe is held for

truth among us, is, that the more generously you treat the land the more abundantly it will repay the outlay.

I will now proceed to say a few words upon the general rotation of crops on regular farming lands, and the application of manures to the various crops as they come in their assigned order,—from my own observation, as well as from the report of others. It may be stated that the lands in Queens County, as a general rule, are broken up every five or seven years; that corn, one of the surest crops, succeeded by oats, are the two fallow crops, and that the land is then laid down with wheat, rye, or barley, and the grass seeds. It is mowed two or three years, and pastured afterwards, until it is time to repeat the same process. The manner of applying the manures, ashes, lime, &c., which are those chiefly relied upon, and used in the cultivation of the various crops—though guano, bone, and fish have their advocates,—depends, as to their quality, upon the condition and character of the soil, and the nature of the crop to be cultivated. While nearly all the straw, and more than half the hay, is carried off the farm and sold, and their place only measurably supplied by salt and sedge hay, the quality of the manure made in the barn-yard, must necessarily be much diminished, and its deficiency supplied, if the system of frequent crossing is carried on, from other sources. Hence Long Island in all its length and breadth, particularly in its western counties, depends essentially upon a supply of the richest manures, from the cities and towns on the North and East Rivers—which is brought by water and railway to the nearest points where it is required; and the farmers of

this county proceed, and have proceeded for years, upon the principle, that it is better and more profitable to sell the corn and the oats, the straw and the hay, for cash in the market, and with it, to purchase the manures required for the growth of their crops, and the maintenance of their farms in good condition.

In breaking up the land for corn, they do best, who plough in the Fall, and cross-plough in the Spring, spreading the whole ground with such manure as they may have, and then adding at the time of planting in the hill, half a shovel full of well rotted manure. By this process a quick start is given to the plant, leaving it afterwards to draw its support from the soil around, in which the larger manure is slowly decomposed, and continues to supply nourishment to the plant during the period of its growth. Others, manure the corn in the hill only, and sometimes, when it is up, and of sufficient size, strew a little leached or other ashes, around the young plant. As it is a certain, so it is a general crop, yielding, according to cultivation and manure, from twenty to eighty bushels per acre. For oats, it is not usual to give any manure—sometimes, however, ashes are applied, where the nature of the soil is supposed to require it. But usually it is a crop which is grown free from any other charge, than putting the ground in good condition by the plough, and an early sowing of the seed. As soon as the oats are cradled, or as soon thereafter as the state of the ground will admit of it, the land is lightly ploughed, so as to cover the stubble sufficiently, in which state it remains until it is time to mark it out, and cart on the manure and

ashes—as both are frequently applied together, where the character of the soil would seem to indicate the propriety and advantage of their joint use. The quantity of manure, and of the best quality, which at this time is put upon each acre, will vary from 30 to 40 cart loads; with an addition sometimes of 100 bushels of ashes. Between the end of September and the first ten days in October, the wheat is sown at the rate of two bushels an acre, with from 6 to 8 quarts of timothy seed; and as early in the Spring as the state of the weather and of the ground will admit, about 8 or 10 lbs. of clover seed are sown per acre. From land thus laid down, if the season is favorable, from 20 to 25, and in some instances, 30 bushels of good Wheat will be harvested; of Rye, from 25 to 30 bushels; of Barley, from 40 to 50 bushels. If the grass seeds take well, from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of hay may be cut on the ensuing year. The labor of tillage in this county is, generally speaking, comparatively light, and hence a less number of animals are needed for the purposes of a farm. A pair of horses, mules, or cattle, have, with some few exceptions, power enough to turn up the sod with ease, and to prepare the land for a crop. And with the aid of the same horses and mules, where the farm is near enough to the cities, the farmer is enabled himself to transport his produce in wagons or carts to a ready and a cash market. So far as my own experience and observation can be relied on, and they are sustained by the opinion of many practical agriculturalists, deep ploughing for corn and potatoes, where the land will admit of it, is a practice which if more frequently followed, would well repay the

farmer. But if you plough deeply, you should manure generously, and by the aid of both, you will increase the depth and excellence of the soil, in which the roots of the plants will find room to spread, and protection from the extremes of heat and cold. The amount, the variety, and the value of the productions of Queens County, can only be estimated and measured by the census of 1848; the only means at this time within our reach, for such a purpose. By the returns of that census, the number of improved acres of land in the County was 125,636, of which there were in grain 49,906—and in meadow and pasture 73,710—whose annual products of all kinds, reached the value of \$1,764,605; agreeably to a statement and calculation which will be found in a note below.*

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>In Grain.</i>	<i>Meadow and Pasture.</i>
* Newtown.....	12,397	5,403	6,994
Jamaica	11,098	4,106	6,992
Flushing.....	11,688	4,541	6,127
N. Hempstead.....	23,580	11,791	10,789
Oysterbay.....	35,995	10,192	25,803
Hempstead.....	29,878	12,873	17,005
	<u>125,636</u>	<u>49,906</u>	<u>73,710</u>

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bu.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
In Wheat,	4,464, producing	99,374, or 20	per acre, at 10s.	\$124,217
" Corn,	17,228	" 440,200	" 25	" 5s. 275,125
" Oats,	12,148	" 323,824	" 27	" 3s. 121,434
" Potatoes,	2,435	" 229,966	" 95	" 4s. 114,983
" Rye,	5,810	" 61,682	" 11	" 5s. 38,552
" Buckwheat,	4,417	" 67,567	" 15	" 4s. 33,783
" Peas,	617	" 38,249	" 62	" 4s. 38,214
" Beans,	289	" 26,796	" 90	" 4s. 26,798
				<u>\$773,106</u>

There is another source of profit, which I must not omit to mention on this occasion, and in connection with the foregoing statement. It is the large and valuable nurseries and horticultural and botanical establishments, which for so many years have given celebrity to the county, as well as to their enterprising and intelligent proprietors; who cultivate about 200 acres, on which nearly 2,000,000 trees are supposed to stand.

The above sum of \$1,764,605, the gross value of the annual productions of the county, is now to be diminished by the cost of labor and manure, and the wear and tear, as follows :

To the value of the Real Estate,.....	\$7,500,000
deducting for villages and their buildings.....	1,000,000
	<hr/>
	\$6,500,000
Add of the personal estate, for stock, farming implements—	
wagons, carts, &c.,.....	1,500,000
	<hr/>
	\$8,000,000
The balance of personal estate, \$3,000,000, being at interest, or variously invested.	

[Brought over]	\$773,105
Of the 75,000 acres in meadow and pasture, two-fifths, or 30,000 acres, may be set down as mowing ground—yielding, one year with another, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of hay, or 45,000 tons at \$12 50 per ton, is	562,500
Wheat and Rye straw, one-half the value of the grain	82,000
Salt and sedge hay, at one-fifth the value of English Hay,.....	112,000
Oat straw, corn tops and bottoms, 40,000 loads at \$1 50	60,000
Cabbages, asparagus, and other vegetables, and small fruit	50,000
Pork, poultry, lambs, veal, eggs, butter, milk, cord wood, and locust timber	125,000
	<hr/>
	\$1,764,605

	\$1,764,605
Deduct, for labor on 50,000 acres arable land, at \$6 per acre	\$300,000
And on 30,000 acres meadow or mowing land, at \$3 per acre	90,000
For manures made and purchased, the one being equal to the other, as will be shown	454,000
For wear and tear	80,000
	<hr/> 924,000
Nett receipt,	\$840,605

Or more than 10 per cent on \$8,000,000 of agricultural capital; or \$7 nett per acre on 125,000 acres improved lands; and \$17 nett per acre on the 50,000 acres of arable land.

The average size of the farms will scarcely reach eighty acres, and the average value of all the lands in the county 250,000 acres is, agreeably to the assessment roll, \$30; of the improved land, 125,000 acres, \$60 per acre; of the number of acres returned for taxation, 170,000, \$47 per acre. The number of acres of improved land in the State is 12,000,000 acres. Its hay crop is 3,800,000 tons, or rather more than one-quarter of the whole hay crop of the United States. In the year 1825 the Erie Canal was completed. At that time the population of the city of New York was 166,000, and the value of her real and personal property \$100,000,000. Then the County of Queens had 20,000 inhabitants, and an assessment roll of less than \$6,000,000. In 1848 the city of New York had a population of more than 400,000, and an assessment roll of \$250,000,000; and the County of Queens a population of 32,000, and an assessment roll of nearly

\$12,000,000. It is thus, I think, clearly shown, that the growth and influence of great cities, and the congregation of great numbers who are not producers, but must be fed, ever has been, and ever will be the source of increased value to the lands within a reasonable distance, and of profit and emolument to those who are owners or tillers of the same.

It remains now to be shown what sums are annually spent independently of labor, for the manures, ashes, lime, &c. An attempt has been made to form an estimate which should be safe, upon this subject, and some pains have been taken to get at the details, in which I have been aided by several intelligent friends; and the result is as will be seen below, that an annual sum of \$227,000 is expended for the purchase of manures.*

* At the landings of the town of North Hempstead, there was received from the 1st of July 1846, to the 1st of August 1848—

59,200 carman's loads of manure,

147 tons of guano,

3,800 loads of ashes,

1,800 loads of lime,

1,500 bushels of bone,

30,000 bony fish.

The value of which was..... \$47,878

The Long Island Rail Road transported, during the same period, and principally for this county,

14,000 loads of ashes,

25,000 loads of manure,

16,186 bushels of lime,

Value, independently of guano, bone, and bony fish..... \$42,371

\$90,249

If the 10,000 acres of arable land in North Hempstead require, in addition to that supplied by their own barn-yards, an outlay of nearly \$50,000 a year for manure; Oysterbay, whose cultivation is

This calculation is supposed by many to be below the actual outlay for manure, taking one year with another; and I have heard it suggested as a curious fact, or rather conjecture, that, large as is this amount, an equal amount in value is annually received from the sale of the fish, clams, oysters and wild fowl of our Bays and Sound.

This estimate, while it is to be considered only as an attempt to fix the amount of outlay annually incurred by the farmers of Queens County for the materials to enrich their soil, furnishes at the same time the best evidence, that the profits of agriculture must be large and remunerating, in order to induce the farmers, who always look closely to their own interest, to expend annually so large a share of their receipts for such a purpose.

If, then, to the above sum of \$227,000 expended for manure, be added the amount of that made on the land, estimated according to the English calculation at so much per head of the animals of the county, viz: cattle and horses at 13 cart loads, cows at 10, and sheep and swine

[Brought over]	\$90,249
about equal in amount—and, if as perfect, would also require an equal outlay	\$47,878
Flushing, with about one-half the number of acres.....	23,939
Newtown, with rather more than half	30,000
Hempstead, with 12,700 acres, would require a larger outlay than the towns already named; but, as she has other sources of supply, near at hand, from sea-weed and fish, I would not place her outlay beyond.....	20,000
Jamaica, with about 4,000 acres requiring the aid of manure, a part of which is supplied by the L. I. Rail Road, as is also that part of its line of road through the several towns of the County, may still be put down at an outlay of	15,000
Making together the sum of	\$227,066

at $1\frac{1}{2}$; it will be found that about 460,000 cart loads of manure at 4s., are annually made, equal in value to that procured from all other sources; 75,638, being the number of animals by the census of 1845, which calculation gives 6 loads per head all round.

It will be perceived that I have not entered into the field of chemical analysis as respects the soil or the manures to be applied to it: this has been done by others, on former occasions; and is a subject now within the reach and understanding of all, from the cheap and numerous treatises upon the subject. I have confined my remarks to the practical view of our agricultural condition and capabilities, and have endeavored by a plain statement of facts as they are believed to exist, to give to those most interested in the prosperity and welfare of the county, such details respecting its soil, its husbandry, its products, and its prospects, as may encourage them and others, to pursue, with diligence and profit, the most independent and healthful occupation that man can exercise. The State of New York, ever mindful of her own commanding position, was the first to commence the great work of Internal Improvements, and well has she been repaid for her wise forecast. Having provided the channels of communication, upon which might be borne, the products of her own, and those of other States, she then expended a large sum of money, during a series of years, in the Geological Survey of the State; copies of which great work were distributed among the Counties, at the cost price. She went one step further; for, remembering that agriculture was the occupation and support of the great

mass of her people, she appropriated an annual sum of \$8000 for the improvement and encouragement of agricultural and domestic manufactures—a portion of which is paid to the several Counties of the State, upon their raising an equal amount. The Exhibition and Fair of this day has been numerously attended by the farmers and inhabitants of this and the neighboring counties—and graced by the presence of those who, whether in the performance of the duties assigned to them on this occasion, or as taking an interest in the proceedings of the day, have added greatly by their tasteful arrangements and their presence to the success of the exhibition. The show of articles as well as of agricultural productions was suitable to the occasion. Many fine horses and thorough-bred cows and heifers were on the ground, and also swine of different ages and in fine condition. The variety of many of the agricultural productions would have been greatly increased, if a long and severe drought had not checked their growth, and effectually impaired their maturity and perfection. And it may be remarked as characteristic of the season, that the crop of corn and potatoes, which the drought might perhaps have spared, was in many instances entirely cut off by the grub. Wheat, rye and oats, were of good quality, and hay an average crop, somewhat injured by the frequent rains during the harvest. The early potatoes generally escaped the rot, while some of the later planted suffered by that disease. Before closing my remarks, I will ask permission to state that, as one of the officers of the State Agricultural Society, I attended the great Fair at Buffalo,

in September, and have great pleasure in bearing my testimony to the right selection of the place of meeting, to the excellence of the arrangements, as well as to the hospitality of the citizens of that place. The exhibition of fruit, particularly of apples, pears, and peaches, was remarkable for size and fairness, and for the abundance of the supply. The number, size and different breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine—the quantity and quality of the cheese and butter—the numerous and varied articles of domestic manufactures and of farming implements and machines—furnished conclusive evidence of the wealth, prosperity, and intelligence of Western New York, as well as of Ohio, and the neighboring province of Canada; for each was represented on that occasion. The assemblage of persons from all quarters was very great; and I cannot furnish a better proof of the numbers and interest on that occasion, than by stating that more than \$6000 was received from members and visitors, and that the premiums awarded and to be awarded, amounted to an equal sum.

Having now concluded the remarks which I proposed to address to the Society, and which I feel have but poorly repaid your patient attention—it remains for me only to exhort the Farmers of this old County to a steady perseverance in their honorable occupation; which has so far rewarded their toil and industry with competence and independence. May they properly estimate and approve of the provision which the State has thought proper to make for the promotion of the great cause in which they, and their brethren throughout the length

and breadth of the land, are so steadily engaged. The benefit and advantages of which have again and again been made manifest both at the State and County fairs. So much so, that it is now a matter generally conceded, that enquiry and exertions have been stimulated, a more perfect system of cultivation pursued, a great improvement in all the implements of husbandry obtained, the breed of cattle and horses carefully attended to; and finally, an accurate knowledge of the component parts of soils, as well as of the qualities of manure, placed within the reach of all. In all these matters the Farmers of the State have a deep interest. They constitute the great mass of its inhabitants, are constantly and laboriously employed in the cultivation of its soil, the gathering of its crops, and their transportation to the best market. An occupation as honorable and useful as it is ancient and necessary; and too much neglected by the youth of our country for other and more uncertain pursuits;—one, too, in which the passions and the worst feelings of our nature find little room for growth or display—where the regularity of labor, the comforts of life, and the feeling of independence, which the ownership of the land ever imparts, tempers and chastens the character and sentiments of the tiller of the soil. Such is eminently the condition and the lot of the Farmers of this noble State: may such continue to be the inheritance of their children.